

1. (amended) A multi-layered thermoformed container comprising first, second, and third layers thermoformed into a rigid, dimensionally stable article, wherein the first, second, and third layers comprise:

a first polymeric layer comprising an alkylene terephthalate or naphthalate polymer;

a second intermediate layer comprising a grafted or backbone co-polymer or ter-polymer of ethylene, a glycidyl acrylate, and optionally an acrylate selected from the group consisting of methacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, ethylhexylacrylate, and mixtures thereof; and

a third polymeric layer comprising high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, or a blend thereof.

11. (amended) The container of claim 1 wherein the container has a bottom portion and a flange portion; wherein the level of thermal crystallinity in the bottom portion is greater than the level of thermal crystallinity in the flange portion; and wherein at least a portion of the container has a degree of thermal crystallinity of at least about 15%.

22. (twice amended) The multi-layered thermoformed container of claim 1 wherein:

said first polymeric layer has an average thickness of from about 5 to about 35 mils;

wherein said second intermediate layer has an average thickness of from about 0.1 to about 2 mils;

wherein said third polymeric layer has an average thickness of from about 1 to about 5 mils; and

wherein said container has an area stretch ratio of from about 1.5:1 to about 3:1.

38. (twice amended) The multi-layered thermoformed container of claim 79 wherein:

said first polymeric layer has an average thickness of from about 12 to about 18 mils;

wherein said second intermediate layer has an average thickness of from about 0.1 to about 1.5 mils; and

wherein said third polymeric layer has an average thickness of from about 2 to about 4 mils.

39. (amended) A multi-layered thermoformed food container [comprising first, second, and third layers heat-set into a rigid, dimensionally stable article having a bottom portion and a flange portion, wherein the first, second, and third layers comprise:

a first polymeric layer comprising an alkylene terephthalate or naphthalate polymer;

a second intermediate layer comprising a grafted or backbone co-polymer or ter-polymer of ethylene, a glycidyl acrylate, and optionally an acrylate selected from the group consisting of methacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, ethylhexylacrylate, and mixtures thereof; and

a third polymeric layer comprising high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, or a blend thereof.

78. (amended) A multi-layered thermoformed microwavable food tray [comprising first, second, and third layers heat-set into a rigid, dimensionally stable article having a bottom portion and a flange portion, wherein the first, second, and third layers comprise:

a first polymeric layer comprising a polyethylene terephthalate or naphthalate polymer;

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A a second intermediate layer selected from the group consisting of ethylene/glycidyl methacrylate co-polymer, ethylene/maleic anhydride co-polymer, ethylene/glycidyl methacrylate/methacrylate ter-polymer, ethylene glycidyl methacrylate/ethylacrylate ter-polymer, ethylene/glycidyl methacrylate/butyl-acrylate ter-polymer, ethylene/glycidyl methacrylate/ethylhexylacrylate ter-polymer, ethylene/maleic anhydride/methacrylate ter-polymer, ethylene/maleic anhydride/ethylacrylate ter-polymer, ethylene/maleic anhydride/butylacrylate ter-polymer, ethylene/maleic anhydride/ethylhexylacrylate ter-polymer, and mixtures thereof; and

A a third polymeric layer comprising high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, or a blend thereof.

79. (amended) The multi-layered thermoformed microwavable food tray of claim 78 wherein:

said first polymeric layer has an average thickness of from about 5 to about 35 mils;

wherein said second intermediate layer has an average thickness of from about 0.1 to about 2 mils;

wherein said third polymeric layer has an average thickness of from about 1 to about 5 mils; and

wherein said container has an area stretch ratio of from about 1.5:1 to about 3:1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-79 remain pending. Claims 13-21, 30-37, and 48-77 have been withdrawn from consideration following a restriction requirement. By the foregoing amendment, Fig. 1 of the drawings has been corrected to change the cross-sectional indicators "1-1" and "2-2" to "2-2"